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HIS MAIESTIES LETTER, (53)

DIRECTED

TO THE LORDS AND COMMONS OF PARLIAMENT,

Assembled at WESTMINSTER:

CONCERNING

A TREATY FOR PEACE.

With the Answer of both Houses thereunto; sent to His MAIESTIE to *Oxford*, *MARCH* 1644.

Die Martis, 12. Mart. 1644

ORdered this day by the Lords in Parliament, that the Printer belonging to the House of Peeres shal print His Majesties Letter dated the third of March, and the answer thereunto sent to his Majestie from both Houses of Parliament, dated the 9. of this instant. And that no man shall presume to reprint the said Letter and Answer, as hee will answer to the contrarie to this House at his perill.

I. Brown Cler. Parliamentorum.

LONDON,
Printed for *Iohn Wright*, in the old-Baily,
MARCH. 13. 1644.

TO THE LORDS AND COMMONS OF PARLIAMENT

ASSEMBLED AT WESTMINSTER.

CHARLES REX.

OUr of Our moſt tender and pious ſence of the ſad and bleeding condition of this Our Kingdome, and Our unwearied deſires to apply all Remedies which by the bleſſing of Almighty God may recover it from an utter ruine; By the advice of the Lords and Commons of Parliament aſſembled at Oxford, We doe propound and deſire, That a convenient number of fit perſons may be appointed and authorized by you to meet (with all convenient ſpeed, at ſuch place as you ſhall nominate) with an equall number of fit perſons, whom We ſhall appoint and authorize to Treat of the

waies and meanes to settle the present distractions of this Our Kingdome, and to procure an happy Peace; And particularly, how all the Members of both Houses may securely meet in a free and full Convention of Parliament, there to treat, consult, and agree upon such things as may conduce to the maintenance and defence of the true Reformed Protestant Religion, with due consideration to all just and reasonable ease of tender Consciences; To the setling and maintaining of Our just Rights, and Prerogatives of the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament, the Lawes of the Land, the Liberty and Property of the Subject, and all other expedients that may conduce to that blessed end of a firme and lasting Peace, both in Church and State, and a perfect understanding betwixt Us and Our people; wherein no endeabours or concurrency of Ours shall be wanting. And God direct your hearts in the wayes of Peace.

Oxford, the 3. of March. 1644.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſtie.

WE the Lords and Commons aſſembled in the Parliament of *England*, taking to our conſideration a Letter ſent from Your Majeſtie, dated the 3. of *March* inſtant, and directed, *To the Lords and Cõmons of Parliament aſſembled at Weſtminſter* (which by the contents of a Letter from the Earle of *Forth* unto the Lord Generall the Earle of *Eſſex* we conceive was intended to Our ſelves) have reſolved, with the concurent advice and conſent of the commiſſioners of the kingdome of *Scotland* to repreſent to Your Majeſtie in all humility, and plainneſſe, as followeth.

THat as we have uſed all means for a juſt & a ſafe Peace; ſo will we never be wanting to doe our utmoſt for the procuring thereof: But when we conſider the Expreſſions in that Letter of Your Majeſties, we have more ſad and deſpairing thoughts of attaining the ſame, then ever: becauſe thereby thoſe perſons now aſſembled at *Oxford*, who contrary to their duty have deſerted Your Parliament, are put into an equall condition with it: And this preſent Parliament conveened according to the knowne fundamentall Lawes of the Kingdome (the continuance whereof is eſtabliſhed by a Law conſented unto by Your Majeſty) is an effect denied to be a Parliament, the ſcope & intention of that Letter being, to

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make proviſion, how all the Members (as is pretended) of both Houſes may ſecurely meet in a full and free Convention of Parliament: Whereof no other concluſion can bee made but that this preſent Parliament is not a full nor free Convention: And that to make it a full and free Convention of Parliament, the preſence of thoſe is neceſſary; who notwithſtanding that they have deſerted that great Truſt, and doe leavy Warre againſt the Parliament are pretended to be Members of the two Houſes of Parliament.

And hereupon we think our ſelves bound to let Your Majeſty know, That ſeeing the continuance of this parliament is ſetled by a Law (which as all other Lawes of Your Kingdomes) Your Majeſtie hath ſworne to maintaine, as we are ſworn to our allegiance, to Your Majeſty (this obligations -being Reciprocall) we muſt in duety, and accordingly are reſolved with our Lives and Fortunes to defend and preſerve the iuſt Rights and full Power of this parliament; And doe beſeech Your Majeſty to be aſſured That Your Majeſties Royall and hearty concurrence with us herein, will be the moſt effectuall and ready meanes of procuring a firme and laſting Peace in all Your Majeſties Dominions; & of begetting a perfect Vnderſtanding between Your Majeſty & Your People: without which Your Majeſties moſt earneſt Profeſſions, and our moſt reall Intentions concerning the ſame, muſt neceſſarily be fruſtrated. And in caſe Your Majeſties three Kingdomes ſhould by reaſon thereof remaine in this ſad and bleeding condition, tending (by the Continuance of this unnaturall warre) to their Ruine; Your Majeſtie cannot be the leaſt, nor the laſt Sufferer. God in his Goodneſſe incline Your Royall breaſt, out of pitty and compaſſion to thoſe deepe ſufferings

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of Your Innocent people, to put a ſpeedy, and happy Iſſue to theſe deſparate Evils, by the joynt Advice of both your Kingdomes now happily united in this Cauſe by their late ſolemne League and Covenant; which as it will prove the ſureſt Remedy; ſo it is the earneſt prayer of Your Majeſties Loyall Subjects, *The Lords and Commons aſſembled in the Parliament of England, Weſtminſter, March* 1644.

FINIS.